

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of compute clustering, comprising:
identifying a defined cluster, the cluster including a
5 plurality of receptors in a chassis, each receptor
configured to couple the chassis to a network device, at
least one of the plurality of receptors in the cluster being
unoccupied by a network device;

10 storing the physical locations associated with each of
the plurality of receptors; and

wherein storing the physical locations includes storing
the physical location associated with the at least one
receptor in the cluster that is unoccupied by a network
device.

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2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
receiving an image designated as a default image for
the plurality of receptors in the cluster.

20 3. The method of Claim 2, further comprising:
associating the default image with the at least one
receptor in the cluster that is unoccupied by a network
device.

25 4. The method of Claim 2, wherein the image comprises
a physical location identifying software that operates to
configure the plurality of receptors in the cluster.

5. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
receiving a designation that a selected one of the
plurality of receptors is a master receptor; and
receiving an image designated as a master image for the
selected receptor.

6. The method of Claim 5, wherein the master image
comprises a physical location identifying software that
operates to configure the selected receptor.

7. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
detecting the presence of a network device coupled to
the at least one receptor in the cluster that was previously
unoccupied; and
in response to detecting the presence, automatically
installing an image on the network device, the image
comprising a default image designated for the plurality of
receptors in the cluster.

8. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
detecting the presence of a network device coupled to
the at least one receptor in the cluster that was previously
unoccupied; and
generating a message displayed to a user over a
graphical user interface, the message providing the user
with the option of installing a default image on the network
device, the default image designated for the plurality of
receptors in the cluster.

9. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
detecting the presence of a network device coupled to
the at least one receptor in the cluster that was previously
unoccupied;

5 reading an image associated with the network device;
determining that the image associated with the network
device is not a default image designated for the plurality
of receptors in the cluster; and
overriding the image by installing the default image on
10 the network device.

10. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
detecting the presence of a network device coupled to
the at least one receptor in the cluster that was previously
15 unoccupied;

reading an image associated with the network device;
determining that the image associated with the network
device is not a default image designated for the plurality
of receptors in the cluster; and
20 generating a message displayed to a user over a
graphical user interface, the message providing the user
with the option of installing the default image on the
network device.

11. Compute clustering software embodied in a computer-readable medium and operable to:

identify a defined cluster, the cluster including a plurality of receptors in a chassis, each receptor
5 configured to couple the chassis to a network device, at least one of the plurality of receptors in the cluster being unoccupied by a network device;

store the physical locations associated with each of the plurality of receptors; and

10 wherein storing the physical locations includes storing the physical locations associated with the at least one receptor in the cluster that is unoccupied by a network device.

15 12. The software of Claim 11, further operable to:
receive an image designated as a default image for the plurality of receptors in the cluster.

13. The software of Claim 12, further operable to:
20 associate the default image with the at least one receptor in the cluster that is unoccupied by a network device.

14. The software of Claim 12, wherein the image
25 comprises a physical location identifying software that operates to configure the plurality of receptors in the cluster.

15. The software of Claim 11, further operable to:
receive a designation that a selected one of the
plurality of receptors is a master receptor; and
receive an image designated as a master image for the
5 selected receptor.

16. The software of Claim 15, wherein the master image
comprises a physical location identifying software that
operates to configure the selected receptor.

10 17. The software of Claim 11, further operable to:
detect the presence of a network device coupled to the
at least one receptor in the cluster that was previously
unoccupied; and

15 install an image on the network device, the image
comprising a default image designated for the plurality of
receptors in the cluster.

18. The software of Claim 11, further operable to:
20 detect the presence of a network device coupled to the
at least one receptor in the cluster that was previously
unoccupied; and

generate a message displayed to a user over a graphical
user interface, the message providing the user with the
25 option of installing a default image on the network device,
the default image designated for the plurality of receptors
in the cluster.

19. The software of Claim 11, further operable to:
detect the presence of a network device coupled to the
at least one receptor in the cluster that was previously
unoccupied;

5 read an image associated with the network device;
determine that the image associated with the network
device is not a default image designated for the plurality
of receptors in the cluster; and
override the image by installing the default image on
10 the network device.

20. The software of Claim 11, further operable to:
detect the presence of a network device coupled to the
at least one receptor in the cluster that was previously
15 unoccupied;

read an image associated with the network device;
determine that the image associated with the network
device is not a default image designated for the plurality
of receptors in the cluster; and
20 generate a message displayed to a user over a graphical
user interface, the message providing the user with the
option of installing the default image on the network
device.

21. A graphical user interface operable to:

receive information from a user identifying a defined cluster, the information including the physical locations associated with a plurality of receptors in the cluster, each receptor configured to couple to a network device, at least one of the plurality of receptors in the cluster unoccupied by a network device; and

graphically present the information to the user; wherein graphically presenting the information includes presenting physical locations associated with the at least one receptor in the cluster that is unoccupied by a network device.

22. The graphical user interface of Claim 21, further operable to:

receive an image from a user designated as a default image for the plurality of receptors in the cluster.

23. The graphical user interface of Claim 22, further operable to:

graphically associate the default image with the at least one receptor in the cluster that is unoccupied by a network device.

24. The graphical user interface of Claim 22, wherein the image comprises a physical location identifying software that operates to configure the plurality of receptors in the cluster.

25. The graphical user interface of Claim 21, further operable to:

receive a designation that a selected one of the plurality of receptors is a master receptor from the user;
5 and

receive an image designated as a master image for the selected receptor from the user.

26. The graphical user interface of Claim 25, wherein
10 the master image comprises a physical location identifying software that operates to configure the selected receptor.

27. A method of compute clustering, comprising:

identifying a defined cluster, the cluster including a plurality of potential physical locations configured to receive a network device, at least one of the potential physical locations being unoccupied by a network device;

storing the potential physical locations; and

wherein storing the potential physical locations includes storing the potential physical location that is unoccupied by a network device.